

GLHETG FIGHT!: OUR LANGUAGE SAVED FROM ROYAL CENSORSHIP

# QATOR ITRÍNS

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## "SOME SUBURB OF MILWAUKEE"

A Response to the Royal Slander

by Miestrâ Schivâ

## THE BIRTH OF PENGUINEA

A reprint of *Southern Cross* editorial from 1997

## WEEKLY WORKERS' CLUB

A little talk with the RMW

by Marti-Pair Furxbéir

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# editorial

## "Some Suburb of Milwaukee"

You may have noticed, although hopefully you didn't, yet another rude and intemperate post on monarchist Wittenberg in which the King of Talossa has a go at me personally with a quote from more than seven years ago.

Now, unlike certain monarchs I haven't got a complete archive of everything that I said seven years ago. And I'm happy about that, because most of it is no doubt even more embarrassing. (Funnily enough, one quote which I truly regret - hurled at Chirisch Cavéir at the height of the Talo-Penguin Cold War - is currently being approvingly reused by the King himself! Who's infringing copyright now?)

Anyway, checking back in my email files,

I think I remember what Ben was talking about. The quotation is from a discussion we had over how the idea of an autonomous Pengöpäts was phony because none of us were ever going to go there. I questioned how much less phony it would be to assign we Antipodeans to a metropolitan province of Talossa - that is, "some suburb of Milwaukee which we'll probably never go to" either.

You see the point I was trying to make - that Pengöpäts citizenship wasn't inherently phonier than any other Cybercitizenship. Of course, again unlike certain monarchs, I have grown up and my views have changed over the years - for example, on the importance of the *Haxh*.

But it's utterly unfair for the self-proclaimed King to say that that quote shows that I have no appreciation for the "roots" of the Talossan experience. At worst, it shows that I was a Rude Bitch back then - which I'll happily and slightly shamefacedly admit to. But today I would only revise my views slightly. If an uninhabited island off the coast of Brittany is a Talossan province, sanctified by tradition and with citizens assigned to it, then doesn't that undermine the insistence that Talossa is first-and-foremost Milwaukee based?

Then again, perhaps I would have had more respect for the mainstream Talossan tradition back in '97 if the King who sees himself as the personal incarnation of that tradition wasn't attempting, at the time, to kick me out on my backside because he didn't approve of my choice of Talossan friends. For someone who keeps quite impressive grudges himself, he doesn't seem to realise that you don't make allies by offering ultimata and smearing your opponents. At best you make sycophants on one hand and bitter enemies on the other.■

For more nostalgia for the events of 1997, see pages 6 and 7 of this issue.



## Miestrâ Schivâ "The Republic's Most Articulate Spokeswhatever"

Zespitzî toct, investigînd dîn va dobiéirs del telepôst, créu që sovenençéu da qêt Ben parleva. La quotaziun, c'è d'iensâ zicuûiun që noi tiennent, ôver come l'idéâ d'iens Pengöpäts autonôm esteva 'n fraudarâ, parç që aucûn da noi txamáis ischâ là. Eu tent zemandat come mîus da fraudarâ c'estadra, athsigîhar noi Antipoûrans a'iensâ provinçû citânâl da Talossa - c.â.z., "qualsevôl banliâl da Milvoc'ht à qêt noi forcâ nuncâ ischent" biên.

Voi pëvetz vidarê el pînt që eu atenteva façarê - që citaxhientâ în Pengöpäts non esteva pû 'n fraudarâ që qualsevôl Cüvercitaxhientâ. Da c'horsicâ, 'n altreu fâts zisimpleu qualsevois monarc'hs, téu creschütat és va vischtâs sînt cambiadâs dîrânt els ârs - përexampâl, ôver l'entità del Haxh.

Más c'è soviarschamînt ûnxhúst që el sezirînd Regeu zîa që aceastâ quotatziun mostra që téu aucûn envrûsadâ përlas "racinâs" dal experiençû Talossân. Piôrmînt, ça mostra që estevéu 'n Garçâ Malpardért à'cest tîmp - à qêt eu aviadeu, gradantéir és 'n pô ruschinadâ. Más oxhî eu rivizadreu va vischtâs solamînt 'n pô. Schi 'n însulâ cjavéir spud el rif dal Bréitz isch 'n provinçû Talossân, sanctificadâ përladiziun és cûn citaxhiêns aîgînhats, non é-ça që ça subverta l'insistadâ që Talossa isch pirméis és fundamáintschâlmînt Milvoc'htân?

Altrâmînt, pût-estarê që tenadréu tent pû da respectû përlas tradiziuns del pûpârts Talossân în 1997 schi el Regeu, qî se vîa come la cuncarnaziun personâl d'acestilor tradiziuns, non atenteva, à'cest tîmp, me expulsar sîr va ciôl parç që o non aprobeva va coîçeu dels amici Talossâes. Përlqualseviens qî steçéu tent rancunâs aîéi imprebatîux, o non sembla realiçar që si non fâts aliançats përlprofrar ûlmatûms és detraiçar sieu contréirs. À mighlôr, si fâts afagéirs, eda altrâmînt enemíci aspreux.■

Përlpû da egîhoradâ përl els evînts da 1997, videtz paxhînâs 6 és 7 d'acest iBû.

# dal redactéir

## "Qualsevôl Benliâl da Milvoc'ht"

Voi pût-estarê tiennent acorçats, iventhô esperancîndmînt non, bis 'n altreu mensâtx malpardért és imoderat sîr *Wittenberg* monarc'hista, dîn qêt la Regeu da Talossa me aîalta perziunâlmînt cûn 'n quotatziun da pû që ja seifet ârs.

Ça va, zisimpleu qualsevois monarc'hs, non téu 'n mustáir complâts da toct që téu zirat ja seifet ârs. És ça me alegra, parç që el pûpârts da ça isch indubitanter ivên pû embaraînd. (Aîéi comicmînt, viensâ quotaziun që eu regreteu acertâs - lançadâ à Chirisch Cavéir àl sùmitâ dal Zuerîa Fred Talo-Pengoûr - corenticmînt isch reuçadâ cûn aprovâl par el Regeu steçéu! Qî fâts 'n înfraziun contrâ drept da cîpiâ nun?)



# ÁR CONSTITUZIUN ISCH (prescâ) FINESCÙ...

After five months of debate by turns acrimonious, dilatory and surreal, the Constitutional Committee has finally made its report to the people of the Republic. The Committee presented its First Draft of the Republic's permanent Constitution to the Convention of the whole people for debate and amendment on 21 December.

A basic outline of the FDC follows:

- Legislative power will be held by a bicameral *Parlamînt* comprising a Chamber of Deputies elected by the whole people by proportional representation; and a *Senäts* of provincial representatives elected by an Australian-style preferential ballot.

- The Executive branch will be headed by a President chosen annually by direct popular preferential vote, and by a *Seneschâl* (Prime Minister) chosen by the majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

- The High Court (comprising one to three Justices) and Secretary of State will be chosen by the President and confirmed by *Parlamînt*. As non-political servants of the Republic, these will be barred from government or federal elective office.

- The Secretary of State will now only be in charge of running elections and archiving laws - the two Houses of

*Parlamînt* will run their own legislative processes.

- The President have the power to send bills to the High Court for a constitutional opinion, or to the people for a referendum, but will otherwise have no veto power.

- There will be a clear list of what areas *Provinces* will be totally self-governing, and in which areas they must defer to the government of the Republic.

However, the procedure for the Convention states that any citizen of the Republic can suggest any amendment to the draft. All amendments which have a mover and a seconder will be voted on before the Constitution reaches its final form. There is therefore no guarantee that the Republic's constitution will end up looking anything like the First Draft.

Objects of debate in the Convention, in an action-packed five days of debate



before the Foundation Day holiday, have included requirements that candidates for the highest office have been Talossans for a certain length of time; term limits on the Presidency; the procedure for adopting the Constitution and getting the new system of government running. Many Talossans who were not part of the Committee have jumped into the fray, gladdening the heart of Committee chairwoman Miestrâ Schivâ.

"It was necessary for the small committee structure to take the lead in producing a first draft," she argues, "otherwise we might never have gotten anywhere. But I was always worried that it might lead to a constitution while, legally waterproof and elegantly drafted, would not command the allegiance of the broad masses of the Republic."

Schivâ was often criticised during the Committee process for rushing debates to a conclusion over the process of Committeemembers who wanted more time for discussion. However, she argues that her approach has been justified by its outcome.

"The First Draft ended up with as broad consensus from the Committee as was possible. And the current debate in the convention seems to ensure that, whatever the outcome of specific issues, everyone who wants input into the Constitution will have it. I truly hope that this becomes a constitution which every Republic citizen can feel is their own."

The last word goes to a micronational observer, Emperor Shawn of Septempontia. "Like so much else of what has always been *best* about Talossa, it's *inspiring* to watch you folks at work.... watching the Constitution forum periodically (I check in on it about once every week or two) has been a real pleasure.

"Whatever the details of the final document turn out to be, you can be damn proud of the means you took to achieve that end. My congratulations."■

## In Other News...

- An era came to an end in the history of Talossa when **Garth Spencer** finally "took the plunge" and asked for a vote on his citizenship from the Provisional Governing Council. Spencer has been a prospective citizen on and off for more than six years as of writing - something of a world record. Cries of "What took you so long?" echoed from all corners of the Republic.

- A **provisional list of public holidays** for the Republic has been bandied around. The traditional Talossan independence day, 26 December, has been replaced by the anniversary of the Revolution, 1 June; the name "Foundation Day" has been suggested for the older date. Other holidays suggested

have been Labour Day, International Working Women's Day, Armistice Day and Sanity Day (*don't ask - Ed.*)

- In cultural news, the front page of our official government website - [talossa.net](http://talossa.net) - is **going multilingual**. Secretary of State Fuxhêir has commissioned translations into English, French, German and Esperanto, with Swedish and Talossan versions due "any day now". The site clearly states that Talossa's main language of business is English, but that other languages are spoken by minorities. This development has been welcome as a step towards opening Talossa up to a wider audience than its traditional Anglophone catchment.■

# ...ÈS ÁR GLHETG ISCH SALVESCÙ!

The Republic of Talossa has successfully repulsed a challenge from its former monarch, R. Ben Madison, to its rights to use the Talossan language of which he is the primary author.

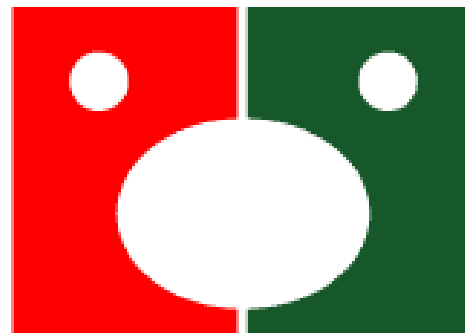
The Second Edition (and corrections) of both the grammar and dictionary of the language were available freely from the talossa.com website, up until the Revolution of 1 June 2004. Qator Itrìns editor Miestrà Schivâ, the biggest enthusiast of the Republicans for the continued use of *el ghetg Talossán*, temporarily made these files available on her personal website.

"This was conceived as a public service to both sides of the political divide," explains Schivâ. "Tomás Gariçéir [the president of the Kingdom's committee for the use of the language] had been quite distraught at the apparent permanent loss of these items. It was for the sake of *Ladîntschen* [Talossan-speakers] on both sides of the border that I put them up on my website."

This was, however, technically illegal. All the Talossan language materials - with the exception of a page of corrigenda compiled by Gariçéir - were copyrighted to Ben Madison. And Madison had, for months previously, declared that as far as he was concerned, any use by the Republic of the Talossan language - or even of the word "Talossa" - was theft.

On the 10th of December, Schivâ was informed by her web providers that a complaint had been received from the copyright holder of the Talossan language materials about their continued publication. In the interests of goodwill, Schivâ took them off her website, pending their legal publication by authorised agents of the Kingdom's CÚG. Sadly, despite encouraging statements by the CÚG President, this has not been forthcoming as yet.

In what Schivâ describes as "a nasty, gloating little rant" on the Kingdom's webforum, Madison trumpeted Schivâ's recognition of his copyright as a victory over the Republican "plagiarists". Schivâ denies



LEFT: "El Drápeu Grischun", historic symbol of the Talossan-speaking people.  
RIGHT: The logo of the new dictionary website, [talossanlanguage.com](http://talossanlanguage.com)

this accusation, pointing out that "Madison's copyright notices were reproduced intact, and no claim was made by me or any other Republican to be author of these materials."

Worse still, "King Robert" refused requests from Gariçéir to be allowed to republish the materials legally, claiming that any use of the language was restricted to Kingdom citizens only:

*"The language and the Kingdom are inseparable. The language is ours. The language is part of an identity that includes political citizenship in the Kingdom of Talossa. It was created for one purpose and one purpose only: to give a linguistic identity to the Kingdom of Talossa."*

Among other entertaining slanders, the King also announced that the Republicans had "no serious interest in the language" apart from using it as a tool to destroy him personally - and, perhaps most outrageously, that for his political opponents to learn Talossan was "like learning Hebrew and hating Jews."

Madison's apparently definitive pronouncements have, however, proven somewhat counterproductive. The example closest to home of this is the declaration of Tomás Gariçéir that "if we become so bent on preventing a few people that some of us don't personally like from ever speaking or writing a word of the language that we cut it off from the entire outside world, then it seriously will not be worth it for me anymore. It's that simple."

But non-Talossans have also been taking

sides on the what Schivâ declares "the Language Question" - and, without exception, it's been on the side of the Republic. Many micronationalists interested in *el ghetg* have preferred to congregate on the Republic's language forums to satisfy their curiosity, rather than dare the infamous Madisonian temper. Not surprisingly, many of these reacted to horror with the King's attempt to deprive them of the language unless they pledged loyalty to "his" Talossa.

The most impressive example of this was Kieran Bennett, ruler of the micronation of Breudwydd, who was so outraged by Madison's attempt at linguistic protectionism that he instantly - and illegally - posted copies of the language materials on an anonymous website, pretty much daring Madison to "come and get him". "We are pleased by Mr Bennett's support in this matter," says Schivâ, "although we of course can't condone intentional lawbreaking. We look forward with interest to see what he'll do when Ben comes after him."

Perhaps the very best outcome of Madison's attempt to shut down the Republic's linguistic efforts has been the inspiration for Republicans to create their very own language materials. The most impressive example of this so far as been the joint effort of Marti-Pair Furxhéir and J.P. Griffin to create our own, original Talossan dictionary, based on Talossan-language words already in the public domain (available at the link below).

"They should definitely get a CÚG commendation for that, except that Ben would probably veto it," jokes Schivâ. "The royal slander that we have no serious interest in the language is easily disproved by this, and by every issue of *Qator Itrìns*. Like it or not, *el ghetg Talossán viva dîn la Repùblicâ, és el Regeu non pût façarê nitgil övër ça.*" ■

**LINK** [www.talossanlanguage.com](http://www.talossanlanguage.com)

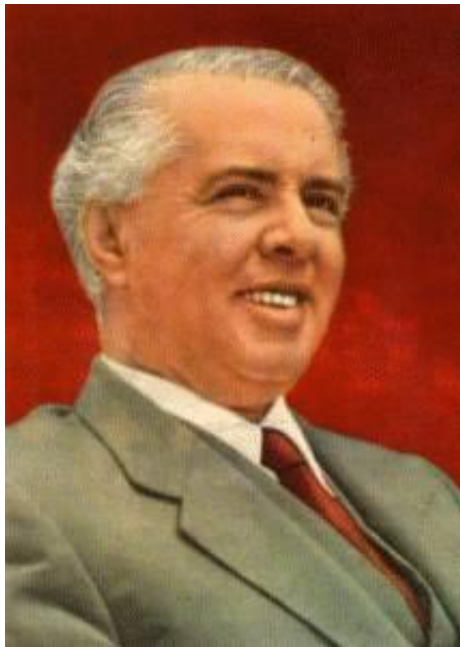
# "An Entirely Fictitious World"

The following is an extract from an article by Antonia Grunenberg, **Totalitarian lies and post-totalitarian guilt: the question of ethics in democratic politics**, originally published in *Social Research*, Summer 2002 (full URL at bottom of page). Republicans might want to discuss this article with respect to the question of Talossan history - and who writes it...

In [Hannah] Arendt's view, the purpose of totalitarian ideology is to erect a world of propaganda in which terror can accomplish its brutal work because nobody is able to control it anymore. But totalitarian ideology is not just false. Its secret lies in the fact that it contains elements of truth, elements of reality.

What distinguishes the totalitarian leaders and dictators [from other demagogues in the past] is rather the simple-minded single-minded purposefulness with which they choose those elements from existing ideologies which are best fitted to become the fundamentals of another, entirely fictitious world. The fiction of [a Jewish conspiracy for the Nazis] was as adequate as the fiction of a Trotskyite conspiracy [for the Stalinists], for both contained an element of plausibility—the nonpublic influence of the Jews in the past; the struggle for power between Trotsky and Stalin—which not even the fictitious world of totalitarianism can safely do without. Their art consists in using, and at the same time transcending, the elements of reality, of verifiable experiences, in the chosen fiction, and in generalizing them into regions which then are definitely removed from all possible control by individual experience. With such generalizations, totalitarian propaganda establishes a world fit to compete with the real one, whose main handicap is that it is not logical, consistent, and organized.

Arendt's reflections on the fictitious world emerging from ideology in **The Origins of Totalitarianism (1951)** demonstrate how totalitarianism creates a parallel world without a connection to reality, a world constructed by totalitarian leaders to dominate the real world. It can



**ENVER HOXHA, Stalinist dictator of Albania, used fictitious histories which glorified himself and slandered his enemies to keep control over his nation.**

be put in the place of the real world because it contains elements of experience as well as elements of reality. And its most successful effect is that it makes people unable to differentiate between ideology and reality. It puts obedience and obligation in the place of judging and responsibility.

...A retrospective look at the Eichmann debate led Arendt to differentiate between traditional and modern lies. If traditional lies are told, relevant information is withheld from the public. However, the peculiarity about modern lying is that it destroys reality and replaces it with an image of reality. Modern lying replaces truth with an image of it. The image no longer belongs to the original; it belongs instead to political propaganda. For example, what the specialists in the offices for national security did during the Vietnam War was to replace facts with images of the factual world.

A modern lie is not an obvious lie because it no longer relates to an individual action but to the entire political sphere. Its purpose is to confuse citizens to such a degree that they no

longer feel capable of making judgments. Even more, image-reality tempts citizens by asking for their confidence and belief (for example, in democratic elections citizens trust their representatives and give them executive powers). Those pursuing the strategy of an image-reality have the intention of convincing people that unreserved confidence must be placed in the executive authorities and in the so-called experts.

To use a term coined by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida, a "counter-truth" is spread, created to mislead the public. A prerequisite for the creation of a "counter-truth" seems to be that the common sense distinction between right and wrong is confused, not only within individuals but also in the political sphere. Thus, truth becomes a "performative act".

The goal is to suspend the ability of citizens to judge. Arendt describes this modern type of lying as "destroying" and she gives two reasons for this: first, because it damages people's confidence in the political body, and second, because it attacks the fundamentals of the polity: the citizen's ability to judge and to act.

The counterpart of the lie is the "internal self-delusion" of the liars: that is, presenting something as true although they know that it is untrue. The liars know that they tell lies, but they give the impression that they believe their lies are true. Arendt calls this "organized lying dominating the public realm" typical for modernity. It means that an outside matter is transformed into an inside issue. As a result, truth becomes a matter of opinion.

There are similar mechanisms in the world of lies and in the world of ideology. However, the main difference is that totalitarian ideology is linked to systematic terror whereas lying in democracies belongs to acting. A totalitarian regime leads to a regime of evil; a democracy is able to unveil the network of lies in order to bring the executive power under control and restore the body politic.■

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT:

[http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m2267/is\\_2\\_69/ai\\_90439536/pg\\_1](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2267/is_2_69/ai_90439536/pg_1)



## THE BIRTH OF INDEPENDENT PENGUINEA

*Qator Itrîns* is pleased to reprint the following editorial by Miestrâ Schivâ from *The Southern Cross*, v. 2 n. 1 (11 November 1997) concerning the secession from Talossa of the founders of the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.

I read my email on the 26th of September [1997], New Zealand time, feeling more upbeat about Talossa than I had in a long time. The campaign for autonomy for Southern Hemispherean Talossans, co-ordinated between myself and Evan Gallagher, appeared to be nearing some sort of completion. Sources close to Talossa's King and Immigration Minister, Ben Madison, informed us that he was near to accepting our compromise proposal which would have allowed us to set up our own polity in the old Port Maxhestic Territory in the extreme south of [metropolitan] Talossa. Evan and I were enthusiastically working out a territorial constitution, and our friend Charles Sauls was helping design a webpage. We had been pacified from our original plans of revolt - in his last email to me as a Talossan, Evan said, **"I don't want to get rid of Ben... I just want him to be the benevolent father of the nation, and not ruin Talossa by becoming a crotchety old fart. I am not revolutionary, I'm evolutionary."**

...I was happily working on the sixth issue of the *Southern Cross* when I received an email from Senior Cort Justice, head of the Senate, Grand General Secretary of Maritiimi-Maxhestic, PC President, Minister of Culture and Defence, and Ben Madison's close personal friend, John Jahn... It contained the following paragraph on my citizenship:

*Well, Ben called me tonight with an update on that. It doesn't look good, I'm afraid. Nevtheless, you can re-apply in 6 months (and I hope you will). I also hope that, regardless, we can continue "talking."*

You can imagine my reaction. I was shattered. I'd poured my soul into

Talossa for five long months, for no reward. My citizenship was scuttled by the abstention of Justice Matthias Muth, who had never once communicated with me personally, nor even read most of my contributions to the various online discussion groups. I can only conclude that his major source of information on my personality and suitability (and that of Ian Kabell, who was also



*The Penguinian flag*

rejected) was that communicated to him by Ben Madison. Previously, I had identified Ben Madison's virtual monopoly of communication between cyberTalossa and the rest of the country as a major problem in relations - we knew that if Cybers pissed Ben off, there was precious little way they'd ever hear any good about us. Now, it had ruined my citizenship chances.

I had been brought home to the fact that if you piss Ben off, you don't get anywhere in Talossa... So, I waited for official notification of the bad news, and wondered whether I would bother reapplying. My mind was made up for me when it was communicated to me that Ben Madison's statement had been that my application could be reconsidered once I learned "respect for my elders" - i.e., learning to do whatever Ben and his cronies said. I then decided the only thing that would make me interested in Talossa again was a personal apology from its government, for the way I was kept dangling for five or six months before

being rejected on no better grounds than I was causing problems for the Talossan power structure.

### The Exodus Begins

Evan Gallagher and Ryan Hughes had mentioned to me previously that, if I wasn't accepted as a Talossan, they would seriously reconsider their place in the country. The very next time I read my email, they proved as good as their word.

Evan Gallagher announced his resignation of all his Talossan Government posts and his Talossan citizenship in a circular email the next day. The same day, he asked me personally whether I'd be interested in helping him set up a new micronation. I agreed wholeheartedly. Ian Kabell, rejected at the same time as myself for equally flimsy reasons, accepted our invitation wholeheartedly. Ryan Hughes also expressed enthusiasm, but required time to think about it. However, when I expressed the idea of coming to join us to my other Talossan wellwishers, they mainly recoiled in horror. A couple expressed interest, but quickly fell by the wayside. It seems that, even though they knew what was wrong in Talossa, they thought it better to stay and fight. Those of us who came with us agreed unanimously that Evan should be the chief spokesman, and provisional Protector [head of state], of our new nation.

One of our most difficult early decisions was on the name of our new country. We knew that taking the name "Penguinia" would link us forever to our Talossan past, and enable our Talossan enemies to regard us as "secessionists" and worse who'd planned this all along. On the

# tgistôriã

plus side, it meant we could use our old heraldic symbols, and the Penguinian language that we'd started developing before it was cruelly squashed. On balance, we decided we didn't care that much what Talossa thought of us.

Our independence was proudly declared on October 16th - coincidentally, my twenty-third birthday. Not surprisingly, we were declared "traitors" by Ben Madison - pretty rich, considering that several of us were prevented from becoming citizens by his machinations. But we were pretty much determined to avoid any excess Talossa-bashing. We really want to be on good terms with the nation which has shaped so much of our perspective - if its Government would just stop badmouthing us, please.

## So what the hell do we think we're doing?

May history, and our Talossan friends and colleagues, judge us charitably for our actions. I think that you all deserve some explanation....

When we first decided to become Talossan citizens, it was because of what was promised in the glossy publicity of the websites - the continuous seventeen years of history, the thriving culture and free press, the "freewheeling multiparty democracy". What we have discovered, in actual experience, is a nation that appears to be slipping back into the personal fantasy fiefdom whence it arose. A country where cultural uniformity is rigorously enforced, dissenters are not considered "real citizens" and any criticism of government figures is taken as a personal attack is not the kind of country we want to live in. ... We failed in our mission to make the Talossa we loved into a free, democratic nation. We are accepting our failure, and going somewhere where we might have a chance of success - our brand new Commonwealth.

It finally became obvious to us that Ben Madison believes he has sole exclusive right to determine how Talossa's future should look. In the immortal words of John Eiffler, "Talossa is Ben's sandbox, but just don't try to grab his spade". Let's face reality, friends: Talossa is what Ben says it is, and if you disagree, he won't consider you a "real Talossan", no matter if you've been an enthusiastic devotee for years. That's perfectly understandable. He started the country, he put in the hard yards, he's kept it going. Perhaps he's entitled to run it as a personal fief. But we don't want to be in a country, however well-equipped and stable, that's run as a personal fief



*The Penguinian coat of arms*

by even such a saintly genius as Ben Madison undoubtedly is. We want to be part of a country where everyone gets a say in what it is.

...As Ben clearly states, he doesn't consider anyone who disagrees with him or his party a "real Talossan". Elections are fine, so long as the Opposition never win, because the Opposition aren't true Talossans. If people oppose the Government, it's not the Government's fault, it just means that the wrong people have immigrated. Does this kind of talk scare you? It scares us. There's a word for a country where all "real citizens" support the Government, and it's not a very nice one.

... If it was just a matter of disagreeing with Ben's opinions, we'd surely have stood our ground. But Ben Madison appears to seriously believe that anyone who disagrees with him is not only "not a Talossan", but is his

# history

personal enemy. We all have great respect for Ben, and everything he's done. But we can't be expected to find it pleasant when he's accusing us of trying to destroy his country by disagreeing with him, and arguing our case rationally and politely.. All of us have tried to remain his friends, whilst disagreeing with his statements and actions. He's proved to us that this is impossible. This didn't make us feel good. And if we're not enjoying ourselves, why bother?

It's only recently that Ben's decided that the opposition aren't "real Talossans", that deviation from his official view of what Talossa is is unacceptable, and (most recently) that he and he alone should have final say on who is a Talossan. Ben seems determined to reestablish the control over his country that he had when it was only his bedroom.

Thus, as sad as it is, we find ourselves forced to become political refugees from the nation we adopted into our hearts. We still love Talossa - it's just that according to its King, we can't be "real citizens" if we dare to dissent. We are therefore striking out to form our own "model nation" - an independent Commonwealth, based on principles of personal liberty, separation of powers and cultural diversity. We're taking with us the name we were going to use for our own little part of Talossa, before we were told that we had to conform or die - this is purely for historical reasons, to remind us of where we came from.

We are sorry. We never meant it to come to this. But it's become obvious that we could either agree to conform to the official "Talossan way of doing things" - which we found profoundly antidemocratic and increasingly unpleasant - or Talossa was not for us. And if you agree with most things that we've said in this article, then... well, there is a place at our table for all of good will who wish to join us.■

## What can you do for your country?

Talossa now has 25 years of continuous history. If Talossa had been a couple, it would be celebrating its silver anniversary.

What makes a couple survive 25 years? Some say it is communication. Others say it is complicity. However, a big majority say it is love.

In his bestselling book *the road less travelled*, Scott Peck defines love as being “the will to extend one’s self for the purpose of nurturing one’s own or another’s personal growth”. The more you try to help a person grow, the stronger you will feel in love with that person.

The love for one’s country is called patriotism, and it follows the same rules as love in the context of a couple. John F. Kennedy said it best: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country”. Many Talossans have expressed deep patriotism for the Republic of Talossa since its beginning, extending their boundaries to help the nation’s growth. Spending hours working for their nation, when they could have used that time otherwise.

Dr Schivä, by spending countless hours publishing *Qator Itrins* every month, or by supervising the Constitutional Convention process, has proven her love for the Republic, showing she is willing to spend time on it despite her busy schedule. [*Senza complimenti!* - Ed.]

Dean Cavéir, by working on his book “Dare Something Worthy” and on Radio Free Talossa has shown an example that a few are willing to try to follow.

Andy Lowry, who spends numerous hours every month, if not week, guiding and tutoring prospectives and friends also proves to the world his devotion to the Republic. Even the help I got on the Talossan-



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language.com dictionary from Gödafrüu Válcadác’h was a great proof of dedication from his part, while he is working on his book on Talossa.

But for many, that love is merely expressed in their irregular posts on Wittenberg, or some infrequent collaborations such a single page or two on Talossapedia.com.

I tried to hint at it in several QI articles: the strength of a micronation is a combination of several factors, the most important one being the level of activity of its citizens. A micronation with great democracy, a lot of good citizens and a strong cultural identity is nothing if its citizens are apathetic.

In order for a micronation to flourish, it needs it’s citizens to be literally hyper-active. It needs you, personally.

I now officially launching the **Weekly**

**Workers Club.** In order to be a member, the only requirement a citizen needs to follow, is to produce at least one act of love for his country per week. It can be to write a new page for the TalossaPedia project. It can be to translate a page from Talossa.net into another language. It can be to write an article for the *Seifetzueascâ* newsletter, or for *Qator Itrins*.

It doesn’t need a lot of time. An hour or two per week is sufficient. Half an hour if it is all you can spare. Do it while eating breakfast on Saturdays, take 10 minutes every lunch break to compose a little something or post one less message on Wittenberg this week and one more page for a website of Talossa. It doesn’t really matter what you do, as long as you do it to help the nation grow.

Even though Talossa has 25 years, it doesn’t look that old from the point of view of an Internet visitor. Many online micronations have more content online than Talossa has, despite having sometimes less than 5 citizens.

But where I place my hopes, is in the TalossaPedia project. It is an opportunity for all Talossans to express their diverging opinions on a variety of subjects. It is a chance to note every passing historical moment and documenting it for future reference. When something occurs, the reflex of every citizen should be to visit the Talossapedia to update a page on that subject, or create a new one.

My vision is for the Talossapedia to become a repository of all of what Talossa is. An impartial replacement for Ar Pats, or at least, the primary information source for its redaction.

Many of you have grown apathetic following the Halloween Crisis. It is time to put Talossa back into your life. It is time to take action and show the world the love you have for your nation. After all, it is not every year that a micronation turns 25.■

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**Covers by Chirisch Cavéir.**

## GUIDALIGÑHÂS PËR COMTRIBUÇADÉIRS GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Qator Itrins** welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to [heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz](mailto:heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz), preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. **Să vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân!**